

Remarks

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended, claims 8-23 have been withdrawn, and new claims 24-27 have been added. Re-examination and reconsideration of the applications, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 on formal grounds. These claims have been amended to correct the informality.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benedict et al. US Patent No. 5,675,876 in view of Titus US Patent No. 4,311,235. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite that the panel is adapted to lie generally parallel to a wall of the casket shell when in the outer hanging position so as to overlie at least a portion of the casket shell wall. Benedict is directed to totally different structure, a tray, from that of claims 1 and 4, and as such neither teaches nor suggests the claimed panel and its attributes. Titus supplies none of the deficiencies of Benedict. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-7 are allowable.

Lastly, new claims 24-27 have been added directed to additional patentable subject matter.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims presently pending in the application and not withdrawn, namely claims 1-7 and 24-27, are clearly in a

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condition for allowance. Re-examination of the application is respectfully requested, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any extension of time is necessary to complete the filing of this paper, please consider this as a petition for such an extension of time, and charge the appropriate extension of time fee to Deposit Account 23-3000. And, if any other fees are necessary to complete the filing of this paper, or if any credits are due, please charge/credit them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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